CLAIMS

1.   A test animal useful in an animal model system for
atherosclerosis, wherein the test animal is a non-human mammal
susceptible to the induction of atherosclerosis which carries a
vessel-restricting device applied to at least one of its blood
vessels.

2.   A test animal according to claim 1, wherein said vessel-
restricting device comprises a cuff or ring placed around part
of a blood vessel of the animal.

3.   A test animal according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said
vessel-restricting device is made of a plastic material, such
as polyethylene.

4.   A test animal according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein
said animal is selected from the group consisting of monkey,
pig, cow, sheep, goat, dog, horse, rabbit, hamster, Guinea pig,
rat and mouse, preferably is a rodent, most preferably mouse.

5.   A test animal according to claim 4, wherein said animal is
a transgenic mouse with a disorder promoting its susceptibility
to atherosclerosis, more particularly a disorder in its lipid
metabolism promoting its susceptibility to atherosclerosis.

6.   A test animal according to claim 5, wherein said trans-
genic mouse is selected from the group consisting of ApoE$^{-/-}$,
LDL-R$^{-/-}$ and ApoE3 mice.

7.   A method for testing the atherosclerotic or anti-
atherosclerotic effect of a substance, diet or treatment in an
animal model system for atherosclerosis, comprising subjecting
a test animal as defined in any one of claims 1-6 to a test
treatment with the substance, diet or treatment to be tested
and analyzing the atherosclerotic or anti-atherosclerotic

effect, if any, on the blood vessel restricted by the vessel-restricting device.

8.   A method according to claim 7, wherein the vessel-restricting device is applied to the at least one blood vessel after the start but before the end of the test treatment.

9.   A method according to claim 7 or 8, further comprising analyzing with the same animal, as a control, the athero-sclerotic or anti-atherosclerotic effect, if any, on a blood vessel not restricted by the vessel-restricting device.

10. A method according to any one of claims 7-9, wherein said test treatment comprises administration to a test animal of a substance to be tested as anti-atherosclerotic agent together with an atherosclerosis-promoting diet, and wherein another test animal, fed with the same atherosclerosis-promoting diet but without the substance to be tested, is used as a control.

11. A method for screening substances, diets or treatments to identify one having an anti-atherosclerotic effect, comprising subjecting each of the substances, diets or treatments to be tested to a test in an animal model system for atherosclerosis in which a test animal as defined in any one of claims 1-6 is subjected to a test treatment with the substance, diet or treatment to be tested and the anti-atherosclerotic effect, if any, on the blood vessel restricted by the vessel-restricting device is analyzed, and selecting a substance, diet or treatment having an anti-atherosclerotic effect.

12. A method for accelerating the onset and/or development of atherosclerotic phenomena in a non-human mammalian test animal comprising applying a vessel-restricting device to at least one of its blood vessels.

13. Use of a non-human mammalian test animal susceptible to the induction of atherosclerosis and carrying a vessel-restricting device applied to at least one of its blood

vessels, for identifying substances, diets or treatments having an anti-atherosclerotic effect.